

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add new claims 18-56. No new matter has been added.

--18. A notification method concerning a transaction being effected between a mobile first party and a second party having associated premises, the method comprising:

- (a) storing first data as to a future visit of the first party to the premises and identifying the parties and location of the premises;
- (b) storing, independently of the first party, second data indicative of the current status of the transaction, said second data being updated by the second party; and
- (c) determining when the first party is close to said identified location, and checking said stored second data to ascertain whether or not the transaction has reached a predetermined status appropriate for said future visit to be effected.

19. The method according to claim 18, further comprising notifying the first party that making the visit is appropriate in response to a determination in step (c) that making the visit is appropriate.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein said first data is stored by the second party in a third-party service system, the location of the first party being provided to the third-party service system for effecting the determination in step (c) by either the first party or by a location server.

21. The method according to claim 18, wherein said first data is stored by the first party in a third-party service system, the location of the first party being provided to the third-party service system for effecting the determination in step (c) by either the first party or by a location server.

22. The method according to claim 18, wherein said first data is stored by the first party in a mobile entity of the first party, the mobile entity providing the location of the first party for the determination carried out in step (c).

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23. The method according to claim 18, wherein said first data is stored by the first party in a mobile entity of the first party, the mobile entity receiving short-range wireless signals from the premises of the second party, the receipt of said signals being used in the determination carried out in step (c) to indicate that the first party is near the location of the premises.

24. The method according to claim 18, wherein said second data is stored in a status database maintained by the second party, the status check of step (c) being effected by accessing the status database.

25. The method according to claim 20, wherein said second data is provided by the second party to the third-party service system and stored therein, the status check of step (c) being effected by accessing said second data stored by the third-party service system.

26. The method according to claim 19, wherein the result of the status check of step (c) is reported to the first party whether or not said predetermined status has been reached.

27. The method according to claim 18, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction.

28. The method according to claim 19, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction and wherein the first party is only notified if said status check indicates that the item is available for collection.

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29. The method according to claim 19, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction and wherein said first data includes date data specifying an expected date when the item will be available for collection, and wherein step (c) further comprises checking whether or not the item is overdue and not available for collection, and notifying the first party of such circumstances.

30. The method according to claim 19, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction and wherein the first party, on being notified that said item is available for collection, notifies the second party of a planned collection time.

31. The method according to claim 20, wherein the location of the first party is only provided to the third-party service system upon the first party indicating that any match is to be identified.

32. The method according to claim 20, wherein the second party is given no indication of the location of the first party by the third-party service system except to the extent that a said match is indicated to the second party.

33. The method according to claim 21, wherein the second party is given no indication of the location of the first party by the third-party service system except to the extent that a said match is indicated to the second party.

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34. The method according to claim 18, wherein step (a) is effected by the second party during an initial visit of the first party to said premises to instigate said transaction.

35. A notification system concerning a transaction being effected between a mobile first party and a second party having associated premises, the system comprising:

- a first store adapted to store first data about a future visit of the first party to said premises with respect to the transaction, said first data identifying the parties and the location of the premises;
- a second store, independent of the first party, adapted to store second data indicative of the current status of said transaction, said second store being operative to permit said second data to be updated by the second party;
- a location-matching arrangement adapted to determine when the first party is close to said identified location; and

- a checking arrangement adapted to check said stored second data to ascertain whether or not the transaction has reached a predetermined status at which it is appropriate for said future visit to be effected in response to the location matching arrangement determining that the first party is close to said location.

36. The system according to claim 35, wherein the checking arrangement further comprises a communications subsystem adapted to notify the first party of the result of the check carried out by the checking arrangement at least where making the visit is found to be appropriate.

Cont. 37. The system according to claim 35, wherein said first store and said location-matching arrangement both comprise part of a third-party service arrangement, and wherein the system further comprises an input arrangement associated with the second party and arranged to input said first data to said first store.

38. The system according to claim 37, wherein said checking arrangement and said second store also comprise part of said third-party service arrangement.

39. The system according to claim 35, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction, and wherein said first data further comprises date data specifying an expected date when the item will be available for collection, and wherein said checking arrangement is further adapted to check whether or not the item is overdue and not available for collection, and to cause the communication subsystem to notify the first party of such circumstances.

40. A program storage device, readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a notification method concerning a transaction being effected between a mobile first party and a second party having associated premises, the method comprising:

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- (a) storing first data as to a future visit of the first party to the premises and identifying the parties and location of the premises;
 - (b) storing, independently of the first party, second data indicative of the current status of the transaction, said second data being updated by the second party; and
 - (c) determining when the first party is close to said identified location, and checking said stored second data to ascertain whether or not the transaction has reached a predetermined status appropriate for said future visit to be effected.

41. The program storage device according to claim 40, the method further comprising notifying the first party that making the visit is appropriate in response to a determination in step (c) that making the visit is appropriate.

42. The program storage device according to claim 40, wherein said first data is stored by the second party in a third-party service system, the location of the first party being provided to the third-party service system for effecting the determination in step (c) by either the first party or by a location server.

43. The program storage device according to claim 40, wherein said first data is stored by the first party in a third-party service system, the location of the first party being provided to the third-party service system for effecting the determination in step (c) by either the first party or by a location server.

44. The program storage device according to claim 40, wherein said first data is stored by the first party in a mobile entity of the first party, the mobile entity providing the location of the first party for the determination carried out in step (c).


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45. The program storage device according to claim 40, wherein said first data is stored by the first party in a mobile entity of the first party, the mobile entity receiving short-range wireless signals from the premises of the second party, the receipt of said signals being used in the determination carried out in step (c) to indicate that the first party is near the location of the premises.

46. The program storage device according to claim 40, wherein said second data is stored in a status database maintained by the second party, the status check of step (c) being effected by accessing the status database.

47. The program storage device according to claim 42, wherein said second data is provided by the second party to the third-party service system and stored therein, the status check of step (c) being effected by accessing said second data stored by the third-party service system.

48. The program storage device according to claim 41, wherein the first party is notified of the result of the status check of step (c) whether or not said predetermined status has been reached.

49. The program storage device according to claim 40, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction.



50. The program storage device of claim 41, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction and wherein the first party is only notified if said status check indicates that the item is available for collection.

51. The program storage device of claim 41, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction and wherein said first data includes date data specifying an expected date when the item will be available for collection, and wherein step (c) further comprises checking whether or not the item is overdue and not available for collection, and notifying the first party of such circumstances.

52. The program storage device of claim 41, wherein said predetermined status corresponds to the availability for collection at the premises of an item that is a subject of said transaction and wherein the first party, on being notified that said item is available for collection, notifies the second party of a planned collection time.

53. The program storage device according to claim 42, wherein the location of the first party is only provided to the third-party service system upon the first party indicating that any match is to be identified.

54. The program storage device according to claim 42, wherein the second party is given no indication of the location of the first party by the third-party service system except to the extent that a said match is indicated to the second party.

55. The program storage device according to claim 43, wherein the second party is given no indication of the location of the first party by the third-party service system except to the extent that a said match is indicated to the second party.

56. The program storage device according to claim 40, wherein step (a) is effected by the second party during an initial visit of the first party to said premises to instigate said transaction.--

CLAIMS

1. A method of monitoring location-associated events, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 (a) storing an event descriptor concerning an event of interest to a first party that is expected to occur at the premises of a second party, the event descriptor explicitly or implicitly identifying the parties and the location of the premises;
 - (b) determining when an event descriptor is matched by the identity and location of the first party and in response to such a match, checking the status of the corresponding
10 expected event with status data provided by the second party.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the event descriptor is stored by the second party in a third-party service system, the location of the first party being provided to the third-party service system for effecting the step (b) determination either by the first party or
15 by a location server.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the event descriptor is stored by the first party in a third-party service system, the location of the first party being provided to the third-party service system for effecting the step (b) determination either by the first party or by a
20 location server.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the event descriptor is stored by the first party in a mobile entity of the first party, the mobile entity including location discovery means for providing the location of the first party to the determination carried out in step (b).
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5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the event descriptor is stored by the first party in a mobile entity of the first party, the mobile entity including short-range wireless communication means for receiving signals from corresponding means at the premises of the second party, the receipt of such signals being used in the determination carried out in
30 step (b) to indicate a match for the event descriptor.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the status data is held in a status database

maintained by the second party, the status check carried out in step (b) being effected by accessing the status database.

7. A method according to claim 2, wherein the status data is provided by the second party
5 to the third-party service system where it is stored, the status check carried out in step (b) being effected by accessing the status data held by the third-party service system.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the result of the status check carried out in step (b) is reported to the first party.

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9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the event concerns the availability of an item for collection at the premises.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein step (b) further involves reporting the result
15 of the status check to the first party at least when this check indicates that the item is available for collection.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the event descriptor includes date data specifying an expected date when the item will be available for collection, step (b) further
20 involving checking whether the item is overdue and not available for collection, and reporting such circumstances to the first party.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the first party on receiving a report that said item is available for collection, informs the second party of a planned collection time.

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13. A method according to claim 2, wherein the location of the first party is only provided to the third-party service system upon specific action by the first party indicating that any match is to be identified.

30 14. A method according to claim 2, wherein the second party is given no indication of the location of the first party by the third-party service system except to the extent that a said match is directly or indirectly indicated to the second party.

15. A method according to claim 3, wherein the second party is given no indication of the location of the first party by the third-party service system except to the extent that a said match is directly or indirectly indicated to the second party.

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16. A computer program product for use in monitoring location-associated events, the product comprising:

- a first component which when run by general-purpose processing means provides:
 - 10 - a database interface for storing and retrieving event descriptors each concerning an event of interest to a first party that is expected to occur at the premises of a second party, the event descriptor explicitly or implicitly identifying the parties and the location of the premises, and
 - 15 - a match subsystem for determining when an event descriptor is matched by the identity and location of the first party; and
- a second component which when run by general-purpose processing means provides:
 - database interface for storing and retrieving event status data provided by the second party,
 - 20 - a status-check subsystem that in response to the match subsystem determining a match, is operative to check the status of the corresponding expected event as indicated by the event status data.

17. A computer program product according to claim 16, further comprising a third component which when run by general-purpose processing means provides an output subsystem for reporting the result of the status check to the first party.

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18. A computer program product according to claim 16, wherein the events concern the availability of items for collection at the premises, the computer program product further comprising a third component which when run by general-purpose processing means provides an output subsystem for reporting the result of the status check to the first party at least when this check indicates that the item is available for collection.

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19. A computer program product according to claim 16, wherein the events concern the availability of items for collection at the premises, the computer program product further comprising a third component which when run by general-purpose processing means provides an output subsystem for reporting to the first party as a result of the status check
5 when an item will be available for collection.

20. An arrangement for using the computer program product of claim 16, the arrangement comprising:

- a service system having general purpose processing means on which said first
10 component is installed, and a database subsystem for holding the event descriptors;
- a data-processing system associated with the second party and having general purpose processing means on which said second component is installed, and a database subsystem for holding the event status data.

15 21. A system for using the computer program product of claim 16, the system comprising:

- general purpose processing means on which said first and second components are installed, and
- a database subsystem for holding the event descriptors and event status data.